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#### IV.—THE QUEENES MAJESTIES ENTERTAINMENT AT WOODSTOCKE

The unique quarto to which this title has been given was printed at London for Thomas Cadman in 1585. It crossed the Atlantic as part of the Rowfant Library, and was for some time offered for sale in New York, until Mr. A. W. Pollard, on his recent visit to this country, bought it for the British Museum. It has been privately printed in England, with an introduction by Mr. Pollard, to whom I am indebted for many courtesies, but otherwise it has not been published since the original issue of 1585. It is, unfortunately, imperfect, lacking sig. A (title page and three other leaves) and beginning on B<sub>1</sub> with the latter part of a sentence. Apart altogether from its rarity, it has features of considerable interest, but before entering upon questions of authorship and interpretation, it will be well to put the reader in possession of the text. Only obvious errors have been corrected, and in these cases the original readings are given in footnotes. I have numbered the lines of the comedy for reference.

##### I.—THE TEXT

followeth brought no lesse like to the Queenes maiestie: and al the rest that were present: for at his comming hee caused them to dismount themselues and said:

You must fight no more, most valiant Knightes: vyolence must giue place to vertue, and the Doubtfull hazzard you be in, by a most noble helpe must be ended. Therefore ceasse your fighte and followe me, so shall you heare that you would least beleuee, and shall haue with me that shal most behooeue you. And you fayre Lady, fal into this fellowship, where it shall appeare Sibilla said trewe, and your infortunes shall haue ende.

This said, he bringeth them al to y<sup>e</sup> place where the Quenes Maiestie stood (in a fine Bower made of purpose couered with greene Iuie, and

seates made of earthe with sweete smelling hearbes, (euen suche a place as you shall coniecture) and after some reuerence beginning his tale, hee shewed a great prooue of his audacity, in which tale if you marke the words *with* this present world, or were acquainted with the state of the deuises, you shoulde finde no lesse hidden then vttered, and no lesse vttered then shoulde deserue a double reading ouer, euen of those (with whom I finde you a companion) that haue disposed their houres to the study of great matters.

Heere followeth *Hemetes* tale.

Moste excellent Princes, forepoynted from aboue with youre presence and your vertue to profite more then you are aware of, howe much you are bound to the immortall Goddes, and mortall men are bound to you, our present case will partely prooue : But before you vnderstand the woorth of your vertue, maye it please you to heare the variablenesse of our aduentures. Not long since in the Countrie of *Cambia* which is situate neere the mouth of the riche Riuer *Indus*, a mightie Duke bare dominion called *Occanon* : who had heire to his estate but one onely Daughter named *Caudina* : this Lady then more fayrer then fortunate, liued most deere to her father and best beloued of his people : But to prooue that Beautie is not always a benifit, nor highest states be euer the happiest, it chanced within a while that *Caudina* being sought vnto by sundry that were great, and serued by many that were worthie, had more competitors of her beautie then did either well content her, or proued commodious vnto them : for loue, which is not led by order nor chosen by appoyntement, had limed her affections vnreasonably with the liking of a knight, of estate but meane, but of value very greate called *Contarenius* who as he exceedinglie loued her, so the desires of diuers others was somewhat for his glorye, but nothing for his gain. In smal proces of time the seecret fires of their fancies discouered by the smoake of their desires, bewrayed this matter vnto her father long time before they woulde. The Duke dissembling what he sawe, but determined to disapoynt that he most misliked, neither made challenge to the Knighte, nor charged his Daughter for any loue was betwixt them, but deuised a way as he thought, more sure, (but as it proued moste sorrowfull) to set these louers asunder by the worke of an inchantresse most cunning in her kind : he caused *Contarenius*, to be conueyed vp and carried in the ayre from the cost of *Cambia* to the very bounds of the *Ocean* sea : which cost *Occanon* twentye thousande Crownes (a deere price for repentance :) but it is no nouelty for Princes to make their wils verie costly, and sometime to pay deere for their own displeasures. *Contarenius* thus strangely deuided from his ioye and perplexed aboue measure was charged by the inchantresse to weare this punishment with patience, which necessitie did put on, and destiny would put off : and ere seuen yeeres came about, she truely assured him, he should haue for his reward the height of his desire :

but first he should fight with the hardest knight, and see the worthiest Lady of the world. The whilst shee told him, hee must there take the gard of a blinde Hermit, who shoulde recouer his sight, and he his satisfaction, both at one time, so shee lefte him on the earth, and tooke her way again into the ayre. *Caudina* now lacking long that she looked for, the sight & seruice of her knight, fel soon in those diseases that accompany such desires, as to be acombred with mistrust, curiositie, and exceeding vnrest. At last "as Princes doe fewe thinges priuily, but they haue partakers of their Councel: & heires to crowns lack neuer seruants of hope, which be curious to please them:" The deuise and dealing of *Occanon* came to the eares of his daughter, which beeing told her: And is it euen so, quoth *Caudina*? care kings for no right? then right cares for no kingdomes. It is neither the court of *Oceanon*, nor the countrey of *Camb.* that I can account of, if *Contarenus* be gone: Farewel most vnhappy countrey, and most cruel Father, that turnes me to this fortune, to follow my fates, which neyther greatnes of estate nor hazard of mine aduenture shal make mee forsake: but if I lose not my life, I wil finde *Contarenus*, if he be in the world. This said, she pursueth her most hard determinations, and taking onely two Damsels with her in simple habit, with such things as were necessary, she straightwaies conueyed her selfe most closely from the borders of *Camb.* & with toyle too long to tell, passed perils past beliefe, til at last she arriued at the grate of *Sibilla*, where, by chaunce she met with a most noble knight eclipsed *Loricus*, by loue likewyse drawen thither, to learn what should betyde him. This *Loricus* loued a Lady that was matchlesse, in such maner as is strange, for after much deuise to attaine but the fauour that she would be pleased, hee myght but loue her without looking froward: and seeing no glaunce of her lyking (his vttermost denotion) to find surely out her fancie (which she carried most closely,) he made a straunge assay with all the semblance that might be. He shewed to set by her but lightly, that was so sought for of all, and the better to couler the passion, hee was not able to conquer, hee made shew of choise of a new mistris, that liued euery day in her eye: A peece sure of price, but farre from such a pearle, as his heart onely esteemed. And to this Idoll he seemed to offer all hys loue and seruice, leauing no manner of obseruance vndone, that to loue appertayned: As wearing her colours on his backe, her pictures in his bosome, keeping her company aboue all others, and continuing most at her commandement: which espied by this Lady (that indeed was liked no more) for whatsoever man may thinke might become or content though she cared not for his choyse, yet [S]he<sup>1</sup> shewed scorne of his change: and by ielousie disclosed that which loue could not discouer. Which *Loricus* perceiuing, he fel by & by to consider, that the want of his worth made his seruice vnaccepted, and no impossibility in her will to

<sup>1</sup> he.

receiue one too serue her, that merited the honour of such fauour. Therefore hee left his owne countrey, and betooke himselfe altogether to trauel, and to armes, desiring with most indeuour but to deserue that reputation as this great and noble mistris woulde but thinke him worthy to be hers; though she would neuer bee none of his, so thinking no toyle too tough, nor no attempt too hard to attayne to renown, he wandred through the world till he came by painfull wayes to *Sibillas* grate, where he met with *Caudina*. Where these two louers hauing occasion to vnfold al their fortunes: the Lady seeking to know the end of her trauel, and the knight aduise for the ease of his hope, they both receiued this answere of *Sibilla*: That as they were now coupled by this fortune, so they should neuer depart fellowship, till they had found out a place, where men were most strong, women most fayre, the countrey most fertile, the people most wealthy, the gouernment most iust, and the Princes most worthy: so shoulde the Lady see that would content her, so shoulde the knight heare that might comfort him. Now most deere and best deseruing Lady, it falles to my purpose, and your praise, to say somewhat of my selfe. Olde though you see me here, & wrinckled and cast into a corner, yet once haue I been otherwise: A knight knowne and accounted of, with the best of the world: and liuing in court of most fame amongst a swarm of knights and Ladies of great woorth and vertue, where beauty bade the basse & desire sought the gole. It chanced me to loue a Lady, to be beloued of Loue himselfe, if he could but haue seene her: but as she was such as did excell, so was she of woonderfull condition, wythout disdaine to be desired, but most daintly to bee dealt with: for touch her, & she wil turne to 20. diuers shapes, yet to none but to content, as me thought, that thought stil to touch her, was a heauen: & so it seemed by my hold that was so loth to let her go. Till (alas) it liked her at last to put on the shape of a Tigris so terrible to behold, as I durst hold her no longer, and being so escaped, I could neuer more sette eie on her. Madam, thus began my paine, but you heare not yet my punishment: beeing shifted from the sighte of that I sought aboue the world, and then little delighting to looke on any thing els, I tooke by & by a Pilgrimage to *Paphos* in *Cyprus*, trusting to heare of my mistris there, where *Venus* was most honoured. Whither when I came, as I began to step in at the doore of her temple, I was sodainly stroken blind: Astonied at my mischaunce, and vnderstanding not the cause thereof, I fell downe on my knees and said: O fairest of the Goddesses and farthest from cruelty, what hath been my fault, that thou art thus offended? Thy folly and presumption (quoth *Venus* Chaplen as I gesse) from my youth vp quoth I, haue I euer been an honourer of vertue, a deligher in learning, and a seruauant of Loue. But it is no parted affection quoth he, that *Venus* wilbe honoured with. Books and beauty make no match, and it is an whole men or no man, that this Goddess wil haue to serue her, and therewith taking me by the shoulders,

he thrust me out of the Temple. So with sighes and sorrow I sate down in the porch, making intercession to *Apollo* (the peculiar God I honored) to haue compassion on my estate: Now faithfull prayers beyng hard ere they be ended: *Mercury* comes vnto me, and bid me be of good comfort, the goddesses be al found to haue this fault: *Diana* with *Acteon*: *Pallas* with *Arachne*: *Iuno* with *Tirecias*, were angry aboue measure: so is *Venus* now with thee, the cause with the remedy shall be told thee at *Delphos*, whither straight I must carry thee. Which he had no sooner spoken, but by & by I was set in the temple of *Apollo*, Where first demanding my fault, the Oracle made answer: Thy feare and not thy faith: and what quoth I, may be my remedy? The best besides the beautifullest, the Oracle straight answered. And with this *Apollo* his priest tooke me by the hand, recounting vnto me the whole course of my life, whom I loued, and how I lost her. And when I told him of the faithfulness of my seruice,<sup>1</sup> & the faithfulness of my meaning, of the variablenes of her condition, and at the last of the fearefulness of her apperance: Ah, good *Hemetes* quoth he, it is not the kind of women to be cruell, it is but their countenance, & touching their variablenes who wil not apply himselfe thereto, shall not muche please them, nor long hold them, neither is it to be found fault with. Nature her elfe loues variety, so it be done without deceit. Nowe for thy faithfulness it sufficeth not, the seruants of *Venus* must not onely haue faith, but also lacke feare, feare lost thee thy mistris, and thy boldnes to enter into *Venus* Temple, being vnacceptable, made her strike thee blind. But *Apollo* bid me tell thee, the Gods wil receiue, whom women forsake, thy eyes shut vp from delight, shall geue thy minde more open vnderstanding: this punishment shall be thy profite, *Venus* can barre thee but from her felicity of loue: but for the deuotion thou bearest to *Apollo*, hee giues thee this gift, to be able to discipher the destinie of euery one in loue, and better to aduise them, then the best of her Darlings. And furthermore, doth promise thee, that in reuolution of yeres thou shalt recouer thy sight: but this shall not betide thee till at one time, and in one place, in a countrie of most peace, two of the most valiant knights shal fight, two of the most constant louers shal meet, and the most vertuous Lady of the world shall be there to looke on. And when thy eyes shal beholde what thy heart delighteth in, euen a Lady in whom inhabiteth the most vertue, Learning, and beauty, that euer yet was in creature, then shal they be opened, and that shall bee thy warrant.

Al *Apollo* sayeth is sooth: the while, it is determined that thou shalte dwell in an Hermitage, where nothing that longes vntoo Natures vse, shall bee lackinge vntoo thee: so sodainelye I was shifted vnto this hill harde by, where I haue wintered manye a yeere farre from the woes and wronges, the worlde besides is full of. And nowe beste Ladye and moste beautifull,

<sup>1</sup> Full stop instead of comma.

so tearmed of the Oracle, and so thought of in the world: what the Inchantresse tolde *Contarenius*: *Sibilla* shewed *Caudina*, and *Loricus*: and *Apollo* said to me, by your most happy comming is verified, The most hardy knights *Cont.* and *Lori.* haue here fought, the most constant Louers *Cont.* and *Caudina* here be met, and I poore *Hemetes* (as the knight knowes ful long blind) haue received my sight. Al which happened by vertue of your grace, which the best so much honor, & we most bound vnto you: and so I present these noble persons to please you with their seruice, & my self to serue you euer with my prayers, & leauing these Louers to their delights, must leaue *Loric.* to this aduise. Knight, prosecute thy purpose, it is noble, learning by me not to feare of thy self to take paine: remembring, nothing notable is woon without difficulty, *Hercules* had by his laboures his renowne, and his end by his Loue: *Loricus*, thy end wilbe reward, at least most reputation, with noblest women most esteemed. But I feare I haue too long tyred your most noble eares, & therfore only now I beseech your Ma. with your happye presence to honor my poore home, whither straight I mean to guide you.

This Learned or long tale being brought to his end: the poore Hermit loden as it were with beades and other such ornaments of his profession, begins to tread the way before the Queen, which her Maiestie espying, refused her steed, and betook her self in like sort to the vse of her feet, & accompanying the Hermit (her self waited on of the rest) fel into some discourse & praise of his good tale, which not ended, or rather scarce fully begun, the Q. Ma. had in sight the house, which indeede was a place by art so reared from the ground, as neuer before, nor hereafter, shal I see y<sup>e</sup> like. First it was incompassed the number of 200. paces round with lattise, the place of the princes entrance bedect with Iuy & spanges of gold plate, the glimmering whereof was such, that men of great iudgement might haue held themselues at stay. The ground from thence reared litle & litle to the altitude of forty foot or more, the path in mounting couered with fresh turues, with such art, that a great many made question of his skil, which was y<sup>e</sup> Layer. The way was railed with lattice, beset with sweet flowres & Iuy, as before: aboue in the house was a Table made in order of a halfe moon or more, couered with green turues (& so replenished with sorts of dainty, & those diuers dishes belonging to banquet, that the beholders might wel haue though[t],<sup>1</sup> *Iupit.* had hoped the comming, & trusted the pleasing by banquet of his faire *Europa.*) At one ende thereof somewhat distant, from y<sup>e</sup> other, was placed another table (but round) with a chayre costly made of Crymson veluet, imbrodred with branches & pictures of wild beasts & trees, as it had beene a peece of woorke made in the desartes. But leaste I hold you too longe, this mounte made, as I haue sayde, aboute an Oake, the toppe whereof was inforced by strength too

<sup>1</sup> though.

bende downe her branches to couer the house, whiche was done wyth such art, that y<sup>e</sup> praise of the beholders comming wold haue sufficed the woorker for his trauel : although hee was not so satisfied for his skil, by more then 40. pounds. A number of fine Pictures with posies of the Noble or men of great credite, was in like sort hanging there, wherewith many were in loue, and aboue the rest the French Embassadour, whiche was present at these sightes, made great suite to haue some of them. The whiche posies, with some perfect note of their pictures, I would haue presented vnto you : but because the Allegories are hard to be vnderstood, without some knowledge of the inuentors, I haue chosen my tyme rather when my selfe shall be present, & more the sooner, because I would leaue nothing vnfulfilled of my firste determination. Now *Hemetes* hauing brought her Maiesty to the entraunce of this place sayde :

Here most Noble Lady, hauing now brought you to this most simple Hermitage, where you shal see smal cunning, but of nature, & no cost, but of good wil, my houre approaching for my orrisones (which according to my vow I must neuer breake) I must here leaue your maiestie, promising to pray, as for my selfe, that whosoeuer wish you best, may neuer wish in wayne.

Thus the Hermite departes, & the Queenes Maiesty addresseth her selfe with merry cheere to banqueting, which to encrease a diuine sound of vnacquainted instruments in the hollow roome vnder the house, made such stroakes of pleasure, & moued such delights, that if *Apollo* himselfe had byn there, I thinke hee would haue intreated the learning of their skill, or at the leaste forgotten the pleasant remembrance of his sweete *Daphnes*. Her Maiesty thus in the midst of this mirth might espy the Queen of the Fayry drawen with 6. children in a waggon of state : the Boies brauely attired, & her selfe very costly apparrelled, whose present shew might wel argue her immortality, and presenting her selfe to the Queens Maiesty, she spake as followeth.

As I did roame abroade in wooddy range,  
In shade to shun the heate of Sunny day :  
I met a sorrowing knight in passion strange.  
by whom I learned, that coasting on this way  
I should ere long your highnesse here espie,  
to whom who beares a greater loue then I ?

Which then tooke roote still mounting vp on height,  
when I behelde you last nigh to this place,  
with gracious speech appeasing cruell fighte.  
This loue hath caused me transforme my face,  
and in your hue to come before your eyne,  
now white, then blacke, your frende the fayery Queene.

Which marking all, as all to me is known,  
 your face, your grace, your gouernment of state,  
 your passing sprite whereby your fame is blowen :  
 doe knowe by certein skill you haue no mate :  
 and that no man throughout the worlde hath seene  
 a prince that may compare with th' English Queene.

This knowledge kends in me so hot desire  
 to see your highnesse here in this my walke,  
 as since your parting hence I flam'de in fire.  
 till your returne that I might heare you talke,  
 that none to you a better harte doth beare  
 my selfe in speech to you might make it cleare.

In signe whereof accept most sacred Queene,  
 this simple token wrought within this woode,  
 which as but base so better should haue beene  
 If I had not at suddaine vnderstoode  
 of your arriual here, which made me take  
 what came to hande, and no great choyse to make.

Her speache thus ended shee deliuered her gifte, which was a gounne for  
 her Maiestie of greate price, whereon the imbroderer had bestowed the  
 summe of his conning, which she receiued with yelding thanks : to whom  
 the fayry Queene replied :

The thing is farre beneth both your desert,  
 and my desire, yet am I glad to heare  
 your highnesse take it thus in so good parte,  
 which for my selfe, if it like you to weare :  
 then shall I reape the frute of happie minde,  
 as honored by you the honor of your kinde.

To gratifie the rest of the Ladies present, there was deuised many excel-  
 lente and fine smelling Nosegayes made of all cullers to euery one whereof  
 was annexed a posy of two verses, giuen by a handmayde of the fayry  
 Queene, and one aboute the rest of greatest price for the Queenes Maiestie  
 with her posie in Italian, which because I neither vnderstoode it, nor  
 scarce canne write it to be vnderstood : I leave also till my next comming  
 to visite you : for the rest as they weare giuen, I haue sette downe : euery  
 seuerall posie was fayre written and bordered about conningly with seuerall  
 branches excellent to beholde.

*L. Darby.* The vertues foure went wandring once and harbarlesse astray,  
 Till *Darby* gave them roome to rest whereas they now may stay.

*L. War-* If your desertes surpassed not my silly pen and speache,  
*wicke.* Some other men shuld view them then, which now do passe my  
 reach

- L. Huns-* For husbande, children, and your selfe, or ornaments of fame,  
*don.* You are aboue comparison, a right thrice happie dame.
- L. Ha-* The meanes that make a mother bleste, you haue a frutefull race,  
*ward.* A noble dame, a patient wife, whats this but blessed case.
- L. Susan.* Take heede least in a moode, dame *Venus* worke you wooue,  
 For spight of right must worke in her, you passe her beautie so.
- L. Mary* Where vertue, birth, and beauty to, are thus in one mould cast,  
*Vere.* This place to simple' is for her seate with gods let her be plast.
- Mistris* Trustie and true, secrete and sage in place where you do serue.  
*Skidmore.* With wise foresight these prayes loe your worthinesse deserue.
- M. Parry.* For longe and faithfull service sake which hath abidden tuche,  
 good *Parry* is a paragon, shew me a nother suche.
- M. Ab-* Good liking vppon choise made way, to bring you first in place,  
*bington.* Which you mainteine by modest meane still in your Princes  
 grace.
- M. Sidney.* Tho yonge in yeares yet olde in wit, a gest dew to your race,  
 If you holde on as you begine who ist youle not deface?
- M. Hopton.* When *Phebus* saw fayre *Hopton* come to Court & leaue the towre,  
 He spread his beames with merry looks that erst before did  
 lower.
- M. Kathe-* For noble race, and vertues giftes, compare you with the best,  
*rin Ho-* Who list to seeke, in you shall finde, no lesse then in the  
*warde.* rest.
- M. Gar-* Whie doe men set their sights to feede on Pictures set in goulde?  
*ret.* sith *Garret* giues the very vewe of natures modest moule.
- M. Brid-* In guesse is guile, coniectures fayle, your graces be well knownen :  
*ges.* Which who denies, fame saith he lies, by whom the brute is  
 blowen.
- M. Bur-* *Apollo* seeing his Burroughes browes his *Daphne* did forgette,  
*rough.* so stald in stay, so rapped in loue as he standes musing yet.
- Mistris* You gallants giue the roome a Dame of price doth come,  
*Knowles.* Coniecture what your bragges may be when she hath cast the  
 summe.
- M. Frances* Somme say dame nature tooke in care, to keepe *Cornelias* moulede,  
*Howarde.* But *Howard*'s 'tis about her neecke eframed in finest goulde.

I think (good sir) I haue within little repeated the names of those that were Ladies and maides of Honor, at these sightes, wherein you shall see the vaine, that runneth to the liking of such kinds. Now her Maiestie being risen : with good cheere, accompanied with the Queene of the fayrre and the Ladye *Caudina* ; she commeth from her banquite, and at her departure the Lady *Caudina* sayth :

Let thanks suffice in worde where strength in pow're doth faynte.  
 lette pith in prayer from Heauen to craue requite,  
 stande for reward to such a sacred Saint.  
 in whom on earth the goddes in Heauen delighe,  
 whose mould when nature made she gan to stande,  
 in wonder of the worke she had in hande.

The goddes for all their good bestowed on man,  
 accept our speeche, as fruite of thankfull hearte :  
 which sith it is the vtmost that we can,  
 let humble thanks be price for your deserte.  
 Contente your selfe with that contentes the gods,  
 twixt whome and you I see such little oddes.

The daye thus spent, her Maiestie tooke her coach with ioy in remem-  
 bring what had passed, recounting with her selfe and others how well she  
 had spent the after noone, and as it fell of necessitie in her waye home-  
 ward, closelie in an Oke she hearde ye sound both of voice and instrument  
 of ye excelentest now liuing whose pleasantnesse therin bred a great liking  
 with a willing eare to ye purport which I haue hardly gotton to present you  
 withal : assuredlie I see greate inuention therein, and yet no more then  
 the iust fame of the deuiser doth both deserue and carrie.

*The songe* The man whose thoughts against him doe conspire,  
*in the Oke.* in home mishap her story did depante :

The man of woo, the matter of desire,  
 free of the dead that liues in endlesse plainte :  
 His sprite am I within this desart wonne,  
 to rewe his case whose cause I cannot shune.

Dispaire my name who neuer seeke releife,  
 frended of none, vnto my selfe my foe,  
 An idle care mayntayned by firme beleife,  
 that prayse of faith shall through my tormentes growe.  
 And count the hopes that other hartes doe ease,  
 but base conceates the common sorte to please.

I am most sure that I shall not attaine,  
 the onely good wherein the ioy doth lye.  
 I haue no power my passions to refraine,  
 but wayle the want which nought els may supply.

Whereby my life the shape of death, must beare  
 that death, which feelles the worst that life doth feare.

But what auailles with Tragical complaint,  
 not hoping helpe, the furies to awake ?

Or why should I the happie mindes acquaint  
 with dolefull tunes, their settled peace to shake?  
 O yee that here behold infortunes fare,  
 there is no griefe that may with mine compare.

Now was it darke nighte, and her Maiestie filled with conceites, returneth home, leauing earnest command that the whole in order as it fell, should be brought her in writing, which being done, as I heare, she vsed, besides her owne skill, the helpe of the deuisors, & how thinges were made I know not, but sure I am her Maiesty hath often in speech some part hereof with mirth at the remembrance.

But to keepe my promise for the rest, I will begin in order to make you priuy of the sequele: which indeed followeth, as an apt consequent to what is past. Therefore shal you vnderstande, that vpon the 20. day of the same moneth, the Queene being disposed to spend her time with some delighes, this Comedy was presented, acted before her Maiesty.

And the more to egge you forward with desire of the end, assure your selfe, it was as well thought of, as anye thing euer done before her Maiestie, not onely of her, but of the rest: in such sort, that her Graces passions, and other the Ladies could not shew it selfe in open place more then euer hath beene seene.

#### THE ACTORS NAMES.

1 ROXANE <i>Caudinas</i> <i>maide.</i>	6 CONTARENUS <i>Cau-</i> <i>dinas Louer.</i>
2 OCCANON <i>the Duke.</i>	7 NIPHE <i>Cau-</i> <i>dinas other</i>
3 ACHATES <i>his Coun-</i> <i>seller.</i>	<i>mayde.</i>
4 <i>Queen of the fairy.</i>	8 ALEXANDRO <i>and</i>
5 CAUDINA <i>the Dukes</i> <i>daughter.</i>	9 GUILFRIDO, <i>Pa-</i> <i>ges.</i>

#### *Roxane*

I THINKE as yet all here hath fresh in minde,  
 a strange aduenture past in act of late,  
 How that a Lady borne nigh to the Inde,  
 arriued here in quest of louing mate:  
 Whom she did finde by such aduentrous sort,  
 as erst the Hermite shewed by large report.

5

Which Hermit then if you remember well,  
 requirde the Prince and Lady of this land,

That she with her would let the Lady dwell :  
 and wayting still on her, attend at hande : 10  
 And that the Knight in Court there might remayne,  
 till that they both returned home agayne.

Which thing consented too by Princes voyce,  
 they haue pursude and wayted on the trayne,  
 Til late desire hath made them alter choyse : 15  
 the Ladies heart stil longing home agayne,  
 And glad to winne the Duke her Fathers will :  
 for mouing whom she knoweth she hath done yll.

For though at first in heat she set him light,  
 and forst by fathers wrong, went wandring so, 20  
 Yet doth she stil suspect strong Natures might,  
 who checking chaffe sure workes the chafer woe :  
 Which to appeare, is now her chiefe desire,  
 and therefore home she meaneth to retire.

Which thing to compasse well, and leaue no part 25  
 of dutie vn[ful]filde<sup>1</sup> both here and there,  
 She with the fairy Queene is gone apart,  
 of whom she hopes the rediest way to heare :  
 How to returne with loue from whence she came,  
 as she for loue departed from the same. 30

Now wil'd she me (as loth to moue offence)  
 if she were cald for ere she could come backe,  
 To be in place, and not to part from hence,  
 that for excuse in me might be no lack :  
 Til whose returne faire Ladies if I may, 35  
 among you with your leaue I meane to stay.

*Achates. Occanon.*

Now good my Lord, let mourning moane haue end,  
 the harme is yours, your selfe th[u]s<sup>2</sup> still to wracke,  
 The Heauens I trust some better newes will send,  
 the Gods which suffered you these paynes to take, 40  
 Intend you to behold with cheerefull eye :  
 your helpe is neere, it must of force so be.

*Occan.* In seeking hope, hap flieth stil away,  
 my weary corpes is ready for to faynt,  
 Then death, that debt which I at length must pay, 45

<sup>1</sup> vnfulfulde.

<sup>2</sup> this.

by yeelding life receiue, and end my plaint.  
 Now is the time most for to pleasure me,  
 when I in griefe, doe craue it thus of thee.

Who hath not heretofore beheld on stage  
 the hard conflict which breach of duty breeds, 50  
 With natures might in way to vanquish rage,  
 let him behold me and my daughters deedes :  
 Twixt whom, as strange contempt hath caused flame,  
 so nature seekes againe to quench the same.

She set her loue where she her selfe likt best, 55  
 I much mislikt because her choise did light,  
 Beneath her birth, though I might like the rest :  
 to stay this streame I did all that I might.  
 First with perswasions sweete I did beginne,  
 to trye if so my daughter I could winne. 60

The more I chargde, the sorer she repeld,  
 wherefore my labour lost, I changde my way,  
 And from my Court her Louer I expeld,  
 thereby in hope to worke my daughters stay.  
 But while I sought to wring her from her loue, 65  
 loue wrought her cleane from me, as thende did proue.

No sooner did she finde her selfe alone,  
 bereft of him whom she a loue did chuse,  
 But secretly her selfe must needes be 'gone :  
 her state, her traine, her wealth, she did refuse : 70  
 And held that hadde to be her onely blisse,  
 him to inioy whom she in Court did misse.

Her parting first, because it did proceede,  
 from vilde contempt of duty to her Syre,  
 Did stirre my choler much, for that her deed, 75  
 till nature did arrest, and wrought desire  
 To haue my child restorde to me againe,  
 whose absence then had wrought my woe and paine.

Then I began such parentes to accuse,  
 as be too sowre to those they haue begot, 80  
 And found of al, them farthest from excuse,  
 whose noble state doth make them more of note,  
 On them and theirs Loue hath the greatest power,  
 therefore on Loue they ought the least to lower,

A quiet life where neede no labour willes, 85

a seemely face whereon all eyes be cast,  
 A diet where desire the heart fulfils,  
 A world of sport while day, while night doth last,  
 How can these things but make Loue open a way,  
 and fancy force with her delights to play? 90

Here did I fayle in seeking to withstand,  
 where I confesse the power of loue is most,  
 Hence did proceed the leauing of my land  
 to finde her out, which I so lewdly lost.  
 This is the cause why in such simple case, 95  
 I wander seeking her from place to place.

So as I feele my weery bones to shrinke,  
 not able long my fainting corpes to beare,  
 Sleepe doth oppresse my limmes which gin to sinke,  
 while slumbring ease relieues my toylesome cheare. 100  
 I pray you Sir, depart not hence from me.  
 your faithful helpe mainteynes my hope I see.

*Acha.* I wil my Lord not once part from your side,  
 take you your rest, your trauels doe it craue,  
 Here fast by you I am resolved to byde, 105  
 to gard you so, as naught your rest depraue.  
 The griefe of mind I see works wondrous things,  
 commanding al estates both Lords and Kings.

*Roxa.* O Goddes what haue I heard, O cruel fates,  
 must that needs fal which you wil needs fulfill : 110  
 My Lord the Duke to leaue his Princely states,  
 and wandring thus to yeeld to Fortunes will?  
 Then doe I see that euen as you please,  
 men reape their rest and feele their most disease.

This haughty Duke which set so light by loue, 115  
 as though he could commaund him to obey,  
 Doth now himselfe by strange aduentures proue :  
 that gainst Loues force no power beareth sway :  
 For where Loue liues at will, he soonest dies,  
 and where he flaunts at ful thence soonest flies. 120

But yet to learne more certainly whats past,  
 ere that to him my selfe I doe bewray,  
 At this good man I meane to haue a cast,  
 of whom I will learne out if that I may :  
 By way of glaunce who t'is that lyeth heere, 125  
 and what might cause this his so ruthful cheere.

If't be not he, then is my labour lost,  
 and being but few words the cost is small,  
 If it be he, then hence straight will I post,  
 and to my Ladies eares reporte it all : 130  
 That she therby may presently aduise,  
 what good therin may to her state arise.

Good Sir, I see you sad which greeneeth me,  
 whom curchy makes partaker of your woe,  
 To ryp your griefe vnpleasant it wil be, 135  
 as to all pained soules it is I know :  
 Yet if I may finde such grace in your eie,  
 tell me what man this is that here doth lie.

*Ach.* Faire Lady this your curteous speech doth craue  
 disclose of all that careful brest doth hide, 140  
 In him that lyeth here the world may haue,  
 wherein with maze to let their minds abide.  
 A Prince he is, whom fortune doth constraine,  
 with fruitlesse toyle to trauel stil in vaine.

*Rox.* A Prince ? I pray you where, and of what land ? 145

*Ach.* An Asian Lord the great Cambaian Duke.

*Rox.* What fate might force him take this toyle in hand ?

*Acha.* To find his daughter out these paines he took.

*Rox.* Why where is she, how hapt he her to leese ?

*Ach.* Because in loue her minde he did displease. 150

*Rox.* Perhaps he did not like where she had lou'd,

*Ach.* Euen so it was : for hee from court remou'd

her friend, for whom her countrey she forsooke,  
 As not of force her Louers lacke to beare :  
 which knowen, the Duke to trauel him betooke : 155  
 To find her out whom Nature made so deare,  
 With mynde resolu'd if he her met againe,  
 to thinke such hap sweet pay for all his payne.

*Rox.* And hath he not as yet heard where she is ?

*Ach.* Not yet, but that *Sibilla* bade him goe, 160  
 to such a soyle as I suppose is this,  
 and there to haue his hope and end his woe.

*Rox.* These things be strange, yet stranger things haue been  
 accomlisht here, as I my selfe haue seen.

Well Sir, I am to thinke my selfe much bound, 165  
 for this your curchy shew'd at my request,  
 And if your ease may grow within this ground,  
 by meanes of me, sure I wil doe my best.

But Sir, may I desire your Princes daughters name ?

*Ach.* *Gaudina* she is called of worthy fame. 170  
*Rox.* I thank you Sir, I can no longer stay,  
but for requite commaund me any way.  
*Ach.* I thank you for your curtesie.  
*Rox.* Now to my L. Ile goe with speed,  
that hearing this she may accordingly proceed. *Exit.* 175

*Occanon from sleepe.*

Ah, ah, it is but vaine to hope in sleepe,  
to purchase ease, where waking fils with care :  
In sleepe I felt my slumbering eies did weepe,  
my heart did pant for grieft in minde I bare.  
Now let vs passe vnto our iourneyes end, 180  
til we find out what chance the Gods will send.

*Ach.* My Lord, if words that passe from faithfull heart  
may stay your mynd, my hope here bids me stay,  
For marking all that's here in euery part,  
and minding that which *Sibil* once did say : 185  
Me thinke this place should be the happy land,  
where we should rest, as she bare vs in hand.

Besides while you tooke rest, a Lady came  
with shew of grieft, that your mishaps were such,  
And learning both yours and your daughters name, 190  
did passe away : all which perswade me much :  
That if you stay til she agayne returne,  
your heauy heart with ioyful newes shal burne.

*Occa.* The neerer hope to haue that I desire,  
to see my child whom I so farre haue sought, 195  
The more I burne, the greater is my fire,  
for feare to faile of that to winne I thought,  
The wished end requites the toile that's past,  
and ioy for grieft is recompense at last.

What is the force of fathers care I see, 200  
though I my selfe am father to my care,  
To this effect the same hath wrought in me,  
that though it be among examples rare :  
My selfe I haue disrobed of my state,  
to find my child which I did lose of late. 205

*Acha.* For great offence my Lord the paiment great,  
the meanest man feelles not the greatest fall,  
You rew with time that you did worke in heat,  
and yet you find to comfort you withal :

This cost to *Sibilles* words so doth agree. 210  
 But sir behold what Ladies do I see :

*The Fairy Queene and Roxane entreth.*

A royall blood her vertue wil bewray,  
 though Fortune seek her neere so to oppresse,  
 And noble race wil not run farre astray.  
 but of her selfe wil worke her owne redresse : 215  
 As I my selfe euen now haue found most true,  
 in this your Ladies case whom I so rue.

She fearing fathers wrath for her offence,  
 though by constraint vnkindly causd to stray,  
 As she intends with speed departure hence, 220  
 so wil she not but wisely part away,  
 And for aduise resorted vnto me,  
 to learne what way her best returne might be.

My Councel was, since fates had found the meane,  
 the English Queene to make for her defence, 225  
 To whose assured stay she might wel leane  
 To swage her fathers wrath, so wrought for her offence :  
 For none could helpe her more nor so as she,  
 if with such sute her grace content might be.

Her credit is so good, her fame so flies, 230  
 Her Honour such, her wisdoms so in note,  
 Her name so knowne to all mens eares and eies,  
 as better mean could no where els be gotte,  
 Then if he might at her hands vnderstand,  
 what she hath heard and seen within her land. 235

Whereon when we resolu'd by ioynt assent,  
 and I at her request was drawing neere,  
 To moue the suit according as we ment,  
 I met you by the way which had byn heere :  
 By whom I learned a very speedy meane, 240  
 to worke her weale and voyde al terrour cleane.  
 But mayde where is the Duke of whom you spake,  
 whiche tooke this toyle for your good Ladies sake ?

*Rox.* Yon same is he whose strange attire,  
 descries his griefe and points at his desire. 245

*Queen.* Well : Ile feele his pulse. Sir knight I heare,  
 you are in quest <sup>1</sup> your daughter here to find.

<sup>1</sup> inquest.

In weed disguisd because behaps you feare,  
 least being known contrary to your mynd.  
 Your seerch might grow too long, yet may it be, 250  
 Your state descride you may find helpe of me.

*Occa.* Alas Madam, and must it needs be so ?  
 must grieve burst out ? and must my careful thought,  
 Make you by speech partaker of my woe ?  
 wherein the wrong that I haue iustly wrought 255  
 Vnto my selfe, shal lead me on along,  
 til her I find whose wandring is my wrong.

My natiue Countrey is, where Indies streame  
 doth enter Sea, nigh to th' Cambaian coste,  
 From whence I rome into this famous realme, 260  
 to seeke my child which by mischance I lost,  
 There Duke I am, a Lord of fruitful soyle,  
 though Fortunes force now taxe me with this toyle.

*Queen.* How hap your child did leaue you so alone ?  
 was there no helpe but she must needes be gone ? 265

*Occa.* She would needes loue where I misliked much,  
 a man of meane estate, of base degree,  
 She is my only care and his case such,  
 as, though wel borne, a subiect yet to me,  
 Whom I in heate remou'd from her : but she 270  
 in greater heat remou'd her self from me.

*Queen.* Me thinks these words in such high state bewray  
 more egar minde then gift of great conceate,  
 A Princesse peere a Duke should seeke to stay,  
 and not gainst fume with wit to worke debate. 275  
 Are you so farre misledde for want of skill,  
 as you know not that loue wil haue his will ?

He knowes no peere : al states stoupe to his checke,  
 he spares no prince no more then meane estate,  
 But makes ech one obey him at a becke : 280  
 He takes great scorne to heare tell of a mate,  
 But where he findes such match as he doth like,  
 without gainsay he bends his bow to strike.

Because you are a Prince of high degree,  
 in Countrey where you dwell, you hold it light 285  
 That Loue should wound your only heire I see,  
 but were you of farre more puissant might,  
 And she of price as peerelesse as may be,  
 loue hath subdu'de farre brauer Dames then she.

*Occa.* Madam I must confesse the force of loue, 290  
 to be a thing in vaine against to bend,  
 Which blind reason first did after proue,  
 to set vs so as we can not defend,  
 And so triumphing when we cannot see,  
 we must confesse, who is the God but he ? 295

*Queen.* As who should say, Loue neuer hits aright,  
 but beetle like bereau'd of sight doth runne,  
 Not waying worth, nor marking where to light,  
 But loue oft times by due desart is wonne,  
 And most prest on in Dames of highest prise, 300  
 wherfore iudge right, for loue oft times is wise.

Perhaps your daughters Loue sprang from desart,  
 perhaps the persons worth procur'de her choise,  
 Perhaps he was so tyed he could not start  
 from her, commaunding him by vertues voyce : 305  
 And would you seeme at such linke to repine,  
 which vertue did with her owne fingers twyne ?

Therefore make your account this griefe you feele,  
 proceeds from offence gainst such a power,  
 And neuer hope to winne your better weale, 310  
 till that his wrath appeas'd, he leaue to lower.  
 Loue is a Lord, who lothes hym<sup>[,]</sup> him<sup>1</sup> he shames,  
 not sparing Lordes, not sparing princely Dames.

And chiefly where with vertue he doth linke,  
 for vertues sake, where loue doth like to light, 315  
 There can no force enforce his force to shrink,  
 he trusts so much to his confederates might :  
 Wherefore your daughters loue for vertues sake,  
 worke what you could, no ouerthrow would take.

*Occan.* I neuer did repine where vertues loue did link, 320  
 but where there seem'd Disperagement to rise,  
 As in her match I did and do stil think,  
 his birth to hers in no point did suffice,  
 A Princes child inheritour to state,  
 too good I thought so farre to vndermate. 325

*Queen.* Alas good Sir, know you not at these yeeres,  
 that Loue doth alwaies fight on equal ground,  
 And where he mindeth match, he makes them peeres :  
 if myndes agree the ground of states is found.

<sup>1</sup> lothes, hym him.

A Princely heart in meaner man may dwel,  
where, if a Princesse like, she doth but well. 330

For when the eare is fed with worthes report,  
when eie beholds what rauisheth the sight,  
The heart straight to desire yeelds vp the fort :  
where if againe like liking hap to light, 335  
When vertues ioyne and like with like is knit,  
what match is made more excellent then it?

This match should you mainteine where loue crept in,  
not of himself but gesse-waies led by hand,  
For vertue was the first that did begin, 340  
against whose force whilst you thought to withstand,  
In single termes as not allowing loue,  
the compound strength of vertue you do proue.

You blame not him for mounting vp so hie,  
She beares the blame for bending down so low,  
Whom fortune bids looke vp, too blame were he 345  
if he should quaille, and worthy ouerthrow.  
And she too blame, of neere so high degree,  
not casting Loue where vertues doth agree.

Alas, whats birth, though borne so much in eye ? 350  
the onely meane to blind who so is borne,  
Who looking bigge with countenance on hye,  
with vaine conceites holdes vertues giftes in scorne,  
Unhappy he that bragges in that behalfe,  
where vertue lacks he proues himself a calfe. 355

*Occa.* You force me sore, yet this youle not deny,  
that though Loues powre be not to be withstood,  
And that the match of minds be beyond cry,  
and they best linkt where liking thinks it good,  
Yet should my child of me make so smal store, 360  
as match her selfe and not moue me before ?

*Queen.* If match were made by onely meane of man,  
you had byn first, ás whom the cause concernd,  
But what the Gods first moue doe what you can,  
they wil passe on though parents be not warnd, 365  
It is but vayne to say loue shal not winne,  
vnlesse at your consent he first beginne.

*Occa.* But was not that vnkindly done of her,  
vnknown to me to stray from Countries soyle ?  
Therby her Fathers blood so sore to stirre, 370

which for her sake doe take this yrksome toyle?  
 In kinde a child, vnkind to such a Syre,  
 deseruing iust reuenge of fathers yre.

*Queen.* Nay was not that vnkindly done of you,  
 vnknown to her, to send her loue away, 375  
 To worke you both such woe as you feele now,  
 you for her sake, she for her Loue to stray :  
 In kynd a Syre, vnkind to such a child,  
 whose only fault hath child and Sire exilede.

*Occa.* But nature should haue borne with parents heat, 380  
 sith what was meant was meant but for her good,  
 The Loue of kind, such fancy loue should beat,  
 and though she found me for a time in mood,  
 Tyme would haue turnd and causd me to relent,  
 in that for which from me she slily went. 385

*Queen.* Where nature doth but warme loue sets on fire,  
 and greater force of lesser is obayde,  
 For loue by choyce doth drawe more deep desire,  
 the loue of kind, by kind loue's ouer wayde,  
 Which maister like giues not time to relent, 390  
 but on he wil or make the man repent.

How could your Tigrish heart by sundring them,  
 which liu'd in heauen before you sought their hell,  
 Defeate the hold where Cupid held his claime?  
 but in these termes no longer for to dwell : 395  
 What if your child were offered to your face,  
 Should she, or should she not obtaine your grace?

And if her Loue for whom her toyle hath beene,  
 should come with her resolu'd to be her owne,  
 Should not this angry mood of yours void cleane? 400  
 answer me that, for that thing being known,  
 Perhaps I would in part procure your ease,  
 so that their match your mynd might not displease.

*Occa.* This compound case doth cause a fight in mind :  
 to gaine my child my grieve would soone relent, 405  
 Though in her flight she followed not her kind,  
 but with her match I cannot be content.  
 But who are you, Madam, if I may craue  
 to know your name, which seekes them thus to saue?

*Queen.* I am the Fairy Queene.

*Occan.* O noble Dame, 410  
 whose skil is such, as nought is hid from you,

Nothing so darke but you doe know the same,  
 I know you know where both they be, and how  
 I may obtaine the thing I haue so sought,  
 whose want I wrought and deerely haue it bought. 415

*Queen.* Wel Sir, I doe perceiue you are content,  
 to take your child into your grace againe,  
 In hope wherof she shal straight be present,  
 to please her fathers sight, to stay his paine :  
 For other things discourse you when you meet, 420  
 all wil be wel since you are wonne from heat.

*Goe mayd, goe, cal your Lady here. Rox. exit.*

*Occa.* I thanke you noble Dame for pitying me,  
 and tendring this my silly daughters state,  
 Whom if it be my hap againe to see,  
 no such like heat shal set vs at debate, 425  
 And yet I hope by reason so to deale,  
 as that her match shal stand to Countries weale.

*Acha.* It wilbe hard her settled loue to shake,  
 which grounded once is not light to remoue,  
 Yet for your loue and for her Countries sake, 430  
 it may fall out she wil forget her loue :  
 Which being new and young did rauish so,  
 now being old hath better leaue to go,  
 But yonder comes the maiden which was sent, *Gaudina*  
 and lo my Ladie there for whom she went. *& Roxa.* 435

*Qu.* T'is true my L. your daughter is in place. *entreth.*  
 performe your speech and let her find some grace.

*Gaudi. espying her father, falleth on her knees, saying :*

*Gaudi.* I must deere father craue here at your feet,  
 for mine offence your pardon to obtaine,  
 From whom to fly, I yeeld it was not meet, 440  
 yet Loue (my Lord) in me so sore did rayne :  
 As victor once repulse he would not beare,  
 but bade me seek my loue in place ech where.

You vnderstand my Lord the course I kept,  
 you see the gods haue brought this geare to end, 445  
 These fatal listes could not be ouerlept,  
 but needs my wil to their great might must bend :  
 For fault to you their force I must oppose,  
 I am your child of me you may dispose.

*Occa.* Small pardon needs where grace is ready found, 450  
 vpon some better hope you haue discharge,  
 Affection heales where folly made the wound,  
 but these things are to be discourst at large.  
 But now the meane to mend your present case,  
 is that you yeeld and gaine your fathers grace. 455

This Lady here the Fairy Queene hath laide,  
 for your defence in so forsaking me,  
 As much as may in your behalfe be sayd,  
 to whom we both are bound exceedingly :  
 One point remaines, wherein if you relent, 460  
 to take you home to grace I am content.

*Queen.* I dare my selfe for her part vndertake,  
 that on her side resistance wilbe small,  
 To what request her father here shal make,  
 the cause once knowen, and circumstance withall : 465  
 To compasse your good will is her desire,  
 wherefore demaund the thing that you require.

*Occa.* *Gaudina* this long time you haue giuen raine,  
 to serue your choise and feed your fancy still,  
 Wherin as you haue suffered part of payne, 470  
 so I became partaker of your yll,  
 Now is the time to come to reasons schoole,  
 which can alone these hot affections coole.

For loue to leaue the land where you were borne,  
 to tread your Fathers teares quite vnder feet, 475  
 To stray you wote not where as one forlorne,  
 to wander strangerlike in such a heat :  
 Doth ill beseem a person of your port,  
 which being done, to reason now resort.

You are mine only child, heire to my state, 480  
 the wealth whereof doth rest vpon your choyce,  
 Which wilbe wel if you in taking mate,  
 do vse aduise of Fathers careful voyce,  
 Mark wel, hereon doth hang your Fathers loue,  
 besides the good by you my state may proue. 485

I wil (considering both birth and your degree,  
 wherto at first I cast my chiefe respect)  
 To Countries good you chiefly haue an eie,  
 which calles you home, and wils you to neglect  
 The Loue of him which led you so astray, 490  
 and for her sake to take a better way.

*Gaudin.* A dainty choyse my Lord you offer me,  
 old rooted loue stil wedded to conceit,  
 With rufull looke appearing in mine eye,  
 and to your suit presenting stil debate, 495  
 Whom Countries good and nature bids obay,  
 wherby my tongue knowes not whats best to say.

But good my Lord sith you which may command,  
 doe giue me leaue for my defence to plead,  
 May it please you in short to vnderstand, 500  
 how things haue past twixt him and me indeed,  
 Which being heard, if you be not content,  
 my wil to yours shal presently be bent :

How worth in him did worke loue first in me,  
 in Princely state while I did liue at home, 505  
 Your selfe therewith displeasd did right wel see,  
 which banishing him inforced me to rome,  
 Because the baite which loue for vs had layde,  
 held vs so fast as it could not be stayde.

By land and Sea I wandred farre and neere, 510  
 not finding rest til *Sibil* told me plaine,  
 [the]<sup>1</sup> hap of that I hop'd remained here,  
 where I should rest and finish al my payne :  
 Successe confirm'd her speech, and here I found,  
 to whom by chained linke loue hath me bound. 515

For farther linke in marriage to proceed,  
 because therein I had not your consent,  
 I followed stil *Apollus* holy reed,  
 whose priest in that restrained myne intent,  
 And wild me not to marriage to giue place, 520  
 til he should like of whom I tooke my race.

Our state is thus, our loue which thus did grow,  
 stands in these termes, in other termes yet free.  
 I loued where I likt which reft me free,  
 I hasted on the thing I likt to see : 525  
 I sought, I found, our loue remayneth stil,  
 so to passe forth, if it be your good will.

*Occa.* If you stand free saue only that it pleasd  
 the mighty *Cupid* th[u]<sup>2</sup> to cause you rome,  
 Therein I find my heart wel easd, 530

<sup>1</sup> het.<sup>2</sup> this.

and trust to match you wel when I come home :  
 With loue more fit for you then this can be,  
 where both estate and wealth shal wel agree.

*Gaud.* Alas my Lord, it is but fortunes gift,  
 to haue discent brought down from Princes traine. 535

The persons worth is vertues worthy drift,  
 which by desart the highest place should gaine.  
 Care not for birth though it be neuer so base,  
 but vertue reke which craues the highest place.

*Occa.* As t'is a chance to be a Princes child, 540  
 so if you thinke that vertue is restraind,  
 To one alone, therin you are beguild,  
 she doth refuse of none to be obtaind :  
 And where that royall blood with vertues meet,  
 doth not such one best seem a Princely seate. 545

Such one I know in place where you were borne,  
 more fit for you then this to whom you cleaue,  
 Whe[r]fore<sup>1</sup> giue your consent, and thinke no scorne,  
 at Fathers suit your former loue to leaue :  
 For duty so despise for al my payne, 550  
 to find you out, I craue this only gaine.

*Gaudi.* But yet my Lord consider al the toile,  
 which I haue past to compasse this my loue ?  
 Shal old conceit at length receiue the foyle,  
 whose force I feele not minding to remoue ? 555  
 When Loue forsaken shal reuiue agayne,  
 alas my Lord how sore wil be my payne :

To be constrained not once to cast a looke,  
 where I tofore did pitch my whole delight ?  
 To leaue him thus, for whom I all forsooke, 560  
 how can true loue abide such poysoned spight ?  
 Whats to be said in this vnequall fight,  
 where loue denies what nature claimes of right ?

O Cupid be content with that is past,  
 thus long to thee I haue my seruice vowd, 565  
 Let nature now preuaile at last,  
 what she demands hold it not disalowd :  
 And shal I then forsake my former ioy ?  
 nay my *Gaudina* death were lesse annoy.

Plaint hath found meane, and loue hath won his right, 570

<sup>1</sup> Wherefore.

from whom but death no force shal seuer me,  
 Dame Nature be content, here in thy sight  
 my Loue I doe release and yeeld to thee,  
 Yet neither loue nor nature may possesse,  
 but only death the mother to redresse. 575

*Occa.* See how this heate doth burst to extreame flame,  
 see what deuise extreame desire hath founde,  
 She loues and cannot leaue, yet to voyd blame,  
 she hath found out another helples grounde,  
 By death to disappoint both our desires : 580  
 see reasons checke when senslesse loue aspires.

Yet this I may not leaue that is begonne,  
 Madam of you I must craue farther ayde,  
 By whom I trust this fort shal yet be wonne :  
 you haue perceiu'd by both what hath byn said, 585  
 You see the ground whereon my reasons leane,  
 to work my daughters weale be you the meane.

*Queen.* I see affection arm'd and loth to yeeld,  
 whom length of time and strength of loue support,  
 I see whereon perswasions right doth build, 590  
 which hath me thinks possesse the stronger fort :  
 If loue had sight and reason could behold,  
 or fiery flame could be subdu'de with cold.

But Lady, geue me leaue whose friendship tride,  
 doth bid you bend your eare to that I say, 595  
 The trueth whereof cannot be wel denide,  
 though flaming loue in heate seeme to say nay :  
 Immortal states as you know mine to be,  
 from passions blind affects are quite and free.

If you may so consent to Parentes minde, 600  
 (wherwith is ioyn'd the wealth of countries soyle)  
 As loue cannot accuse you for vnkinde,  
 ne yet complaine himselfe to haue the foyle :  
 Considering he whereon your Loue is bent,  
 may haue your loue though you herein relent. 605

If you forsake, not forst by greater cause,  
 loue then of some vnkindnes might you blame,  
 But weight of greater worth forbidding pause  
 If you withstand, you blemish much your name.  
 It were no loue that stood so in your sight : 610  
 but might be tearm'd meere madnes out of right.

Returne againe with parent whence you came,  
 regard the state which birth hath brought you to,  
 Relent to loue that wil augment your fame,  
 and yet this knight cannot, if you so do, 615  
 Condemne you much although you him forsake,  
 sith of two go[o]ds <sup>1</sup> the greater you doe take.

Your Fathers reason springs from such a ground,  
 as cannot wel by reason be deny'de :  
 If he for you so fit a match haue found, 620  
 as for your birth no fitter may be spi'de,  
 What haue you then against him to withstand,  
 since nought but good can come from parents hand.

Set al aside, and onely this obserue,  
 to seeke you out, your knight he took no paine,  
 Yours was the toile, you did from countrey swerue, 625  
 you trauail'de stil, in rest he did remaine :  
 So that of you if loue craue further ayde,  
 you answere may, he hath his wages payde.

But though you may thus checke his loue you'le say, 630  
 how shal I choake the loue which flames in me,  
 That, do my best, so keepes me at the bay,  
 as ties me fast when loose I fain would be :  
 So that I find, the goale must there be woon,  
 where fancy fights, and loue the broyle begun ? 635

Your countenance seemes to yeeld, debarre al doubt,  
 let meaner loue to greater quickly yeeld,  
 Your good it is these reasons goe about,  
 let common care giue priuate wil the field,  
 Why stand you stil as one in sodain traunce, 640  
 giue place to that your honour may aduance.

*Gaudina.* Th'assault is great, yet loue bids keep the field,  
 what al this time hath my long trauel won ?  
 If now by light attempt I hap to yeeld :  
 these reasons hel[d]e <sup>1</sup> before my flight begon : 645  
 What is now said but then the fame was true ?  
 the ground is old though floures be fresh and new.

When he by flight was so withdrawen from me,  
 then did my loue condemne these reasons all,  
 And shall I now sith nothing els I see, 650

<sup>1</sup> gods.<sup>1</sup> helte.

by yeelding thus procure both present thral?  
 I rather choose to wander with him stil,  
 then so to change and countermaund my wil.

I feele a false alarme as though there were,  
 a fitter match to be found out for mee : 655  
 No *Contarenius* no, I smel this geare,  
 to try if so I would relent from thee :  
 No, our consents haue ioynd this faithfull linke,  
 til thou saiest nay I wil not from thee shrinke.

And yet in thee if slender shewes take place, 660  
 Ile neuer yeeld for honour of my kind,  
 Let men remoue and slightly turne their face,  
 in womans brest more stay they stil shal find :  
 My parents pardon me my countrey stay,  
 for what is said from Loue I wil not stray. 665

*Occan.* You see how sore my headstrong daughter's bent,  
 she wil not yeeld for aught that can be said,  
 Were it not good that to the Knight we went  
 to see if his desire might be delaide :  
 I see by him the meane must first begin, 670  
 to quench the flame my daughter frieth in.

*Queen.* If it seeme good to you as't doth to me,  
 to him where as he is, we will repaire,  
 For at his hand this must be wrought I see,  
 if he himselfe wil yeeld to countries care : 675  
 Com Sir, and you Madam, let vs retire,  
 we haue to deale with him whom you desire.

*Gaudi.* You may so with perswasions deale I think,  
 as he to your demaund may seeme to yeeld,  
 But inwardly that he from me wil shrink, 680  
 no reason can such ground bring for her shield :  
 Yet to doe that which both you do desire,  
 apart with you my selfe I wil retire. *Exeunt.*

*Here the Pages abiding, vse a pretty act of sport, but because the matter  
 wilbe full without it, I haue thought good not to trouble you with  
 suche Parenthesis, but making their speeches ended I will  
 only recite the introduction to their comming in.*

*Alexandro.* But yonder comes the Fairy Queenee,  
 and brings with her in trayne, 685  
 My Lord the Duke with merry looke,  
 I hope weis home againe.

*Occa.* the Duke, *Eambia* the Fairy Queene, *Contarenus*,  
*Gaudina*, *Roxa*. *Niphe*.

*Queen.* You heare Sir Knight the parents iust request,  
you see the force whereon his reasons stand,  
Affections staies what wisdomethinks for best, 690  
the matter rests al onely in your hand.  
By nature you are farther to forsee,  
you are therefore to strike the stroke, not she.

*Occa.* You know of old what led me so to let  
the great desire wherewith you both so brent, 695  
Against your worth my wil was neuer set,  
to further Countries good was mine intent :  
Which sith in me so constantly doth dwell,  
to yeeld therto me thinks you might do wel.

*Gaudi.* Yet *Contarenus* think what is in you, 700  
if vertues worth and waight in you be great,  
And such as none but blind can disallow,  
why should perswasions then vs two defeate,  
As who say, any els might better seeme,  
then you and I to rule so great a realme. 705

Birth beares me out, and vertue beares vp you,  
and why should any then thereof mislike ?  
As certaine prooffe shal stil preuaile I trow,  
before that is vncertain how to like.  
You are to choose my friend, make answere so 710  
as you do not procure vs endles wo.

*Conta.* The choise is hard in midst of such extreames,  
my Lord and Prince pretending Countries good,  
On th'other side affections dazeling beames,  
which stil wil shine though clypsed with a cloude, 715  
Layeth in myne eye my Ladies due desart,  
which nought but death can seuer from my heart.

What flashing flames did she at first abide,  
when as on me her loue she did bestow ?  
What constance stil in her wrought on my side, 720  
to keepe that loue whereto my life I owe ?  
What griefe did then consume her careful heart,  
when as my Lord wil'd me from Court depart ?

What was the zeale that made her so forsake,  
the blisse which princely Court to her could bring, 725  
And for my Loue such passing paines to take,

to find me out where brute of me shoulde ring.  
 Now should I swerue whom she so long hath sought?  
 death were too smal did I but fault in thought.

How can I leaue her thus and not deserue, 730  
 to be enrould with those infamous men,  
 Whom Loue, because they did from him so swerue,  
 hath painted out by Poets publike pen :  
 In hel to haue their wel deseruing hire,  
 For so defrauding loue of iust desire? 735

Yet pardon me Madam for waighing both,  
 if any harme do rise, the grieve is mine,  
 You to displease the gods knowe I am loth,  
 for whom my heart disdaines not any pine,  
 Set loue aside til reason hath found out, 740  
 what is the best in that we goe about.

Against our Loue our Countries good is laid,  
 for whose auaille we ought not death refuse,  
 Then death for loue in Countries cause bewraid,  
 ought to reioyce and seeke no other scuce : 745  
 Yet leauing Loue for countries cause I die,  
 who wil not weep such happe on me to lie.

Because my Lord your father may well know  
 that vertue is the linke of this our Loue,  
 And not affection blind which leades vs so, 750  
 as being bent we cannot once remoue :  
 Marke Madam what I say, and yeeld consent,  
 it is your loue that causeth me relent.

Without my Lord your parents free good wil,  
 at home with him what can his child enjoy? 755  
 And thus to liue in state a wanderer stil,  
 as you do now, what more may breed annoy?  
 Good Madam though I loue as no man more,  
 yeeld yet to him, withstand him not so sore.

You shal obtaine such one by his foresight, 760  
 as he shal like, and countries weale shal craue,  
 You must regard the common weales good plight,  
 and seeke the whole not onely one to saue.  
 If you doe well, I cannot doe amisse,  
 though loosing you I lose mine onely blisse. 765

I doe foresee the grieve that wil insue,

when I shal find my selfe of you bereft,  
 When careful mind my late mishap shal rue,  
 that voyd of you and of your sight am left.  
 A double death my doleful dayes shal feelee, 770  
 Yet I resigne my right to countries weale.

*Qu.* A noble speech confirming what was said,  
 that vertues worth was causer of your loue,  
 For sure my Lord it cannot be denaide,  
 but that this minde a stony heart myght moue, 775  
 Which to his praise doth yeeld to Countries good,  
 the thing which to possesse so neere he stood.

*Occa.* Wel *Conta.* I must needs esteeme,  
 you of such worth as your estate doth beare,  
 And if it might so to all others seem, 780  
 you best deserue the garland for to weare.  
 But sith the fates against your vertues bend,  
 your vertue wils you this to condescend.

Whereto this farre I yeeld if that you please  
 with me againe to Countrey to resort, 785  
 You shal in noble state there liue at ease,  
 and spend your daies in most delightful sport.  
 And as for loue I banish't you my lande,  
 euen so for loue in grace stil shal you stand.

*Cont.* My Lord, what you haue done, your state maintains, 790  
 exiling me that did offend your eye,  
 My life must be in course of restlesse paines,  
 for her whom care of countrey doth denye.  
 Good hap light on the land where I was borne,  
 though I doe liue in wretched state forlorne. 795

*Gaudin.* Alas that such a spirit cannot perswade,  
 Alas that state and vertue sunder so,  
 Alas of worth no more account is made,  
 but thus from thee my loue must I needes goe.  
 Well sith he yeelds which hath most right in me, 800  
 Ah Countries good I yeeld my selfe to thee.

*Occa.* Now haue I that which though I bought with pain,  
 I think it light, the gain thereof so great,  
 Now I receiue you to my grace againe,  
 whereof before Loue sought you to defeat. 805  
 The second mends the former fault doth heale,  
 since you giue place to care of Countries weale.

*Queen.* Wel now the force wherto your fate made way  
 is wel expired, you haue the heauens to friend,

Who though they say you runne so long astray, 810  
 yet haue they giuen your care a ioyful end.  
 Thinke on and thanke, it is a special grace,  
 first so to stray, then so to end your race.

Your peace is wrought Madam, retire with me,  
 to place where I do dwel from whence you may 815  
 To Countrey make repaire when time shalbe.  
 til when my Lord if you with me wil stay,  
 What things shal need for that your home retire,  
 I wil supply your want to your desire.

*Occa.* Your goodnes hath so bound both her and me, 820  
 as while we liue we be yours to command,  
 By you is wrought this wished worke I see,  
 by power diuine, and by no mortal hand.  
 Passe on Madam let vs be of your trayne,  
 the causer of our ioy the healer of our payne. 825

*Queen.* And you sir Knight whose honest yeelding made  
 the good consent which past to help this yll,  
 You may remaine as I before haue said,  
 where I do dwel with hearty great good will.  
 And euer haue the Fairy Queene to friend, 830  
 for vertues sake which I in you do finde.

*Conta.* Madam I am your owne stil to command,  
 as one you see of hap bereaued quite,  
 Resolu'd not to returne to countries land,  
 sith I haue lost what was my whole delight : 835  
 When resting pawse hath stay'd my troubled heart,  
 I will retire and draw my selfe apart.

And now sith cause of such importaunce moues,  
 my woful heart thus to forgo his loue,  
 Most worthy Dame sith chaunce so parts our loues, 840  
 that from my sight your presence must remoue,  
 Graunt me herein, sith now the last I see,  
 let not your loue all whole depart from mee.

Waigh wel the cause that mou'd me to relent,  
 which may perhaps imprint more deep conceite, 845  
 What man as I, his loue so firmly bent,  
 would yeeld the hold once maister of the baite?  
 The gods preserue your honour stil in health,  
 my priuate good, my common countries wealth.

And if your mind were set that home you will, 850  
 it were but labour lost, if I gainsaide,  
 And absent if your loue continue still,  
 my gaine is great who stil this ground haue laide,  
 That honest loue might thinke it no disgrace,  
 though they that loue do hap to sunder place. 855

*Gaudi.* Wel, *Contarenius* wel, what shal ensue?  
 You are the cause whose yeelding makes me yeeld,  
 Yet of my word for euer hold this true,  
 wheron you may assured comfort build :  
 Til death my soule and body shal depart, 860  
 your loue shal lodge in some part of my heart.

Griefe calles me hence.

*Exit.*

*Conta.* Such is my recompence.  
 Nowe doe I feele the pangs the Sea men bide,  
 which hauing harbour nigh in hope to land 865  
 By turning winde are driuen to try the tide,  
 and trust the Seas thereby to voyd the sand.  
 Now doe I feele the depth of mothers paine,  
 for death of child she hop'd to see againe.

Was euer man more neere his hauen of blisse? 870  
 his ship driuen forth with wind that fill'd the sayle,  
 Had euer man such cause of hopelesse misse,  
 as I which at the fal so soon did faile?  
 Did Fortune ere so sodain shew her power  
 as in her mirth so soon againe to lower? 875

When I had liu'd so long in strange exile,  
 in desart wastes commaunded stil to dwel,  
 Disfaured of my prince (alas the while)  
 and bard my Ladies sight my heauiest hel :  
 Againe at last though to her paine we met, 880  
 so Loue in her surmounted lucklesse let,

Which loue as it did worke in her to ease,  
 so Fathers search which sought to salue his losse,  
 Hath bred vs both more cause of great displease,  
 and tied vs thus to trie more bitter crosse : 885  
 By duety she is forced to relent,  
 and leaues to loue a leasure to repent.

Yet can I not *Gaudina* blame therefore,  
 her hearty loue, her toying tractes bewayles,  
 She is the lodge where vertue makes her store, 890  
 it was her syre that bred my doleful daies :

Most happy he that on her loue can hit,  
most haplesse I for so forgoing it.

And so farre went I yet as one that spied,  
her whole estate depend vpon my graunt, 895  
Though my mishap herein be not denied,  
yet of her spide my selfe may iustly vaunt.  
To worke her good my life I would forgoe,  
as I haue done though to my endlesse woe.

*Niphe and Roxane entreth.*

*Rox.* Friend *Niphe* could we two haue euer once surmised, 900  
that such euent would fall to this exceeding loue,  
Or that blind *Cupid* could so quickly be suppressed,  
which to all reason first so strongly gaue the gloue?

*Ni.* I neuer thought but that there might fal out some turn,  
the streame did run so strong, it threatned stil to stay, 905  
The flame so flashing hot could not so alwaies burn,  
but being closely kept would burst some other way.

*Contar.* What *Niphe*, art thou here, and heard'st my plaint?  
with silent voyce couldst thou such grieve abide?  
Which heretofore when fortune gaue the taint, 910  
from sounding shril couldst not thine anguish hide?  
Oh helpe in sound to shew my sorrowing state,  
which seem'd to thee most happy but of late.

*Niphe.* I wil good sir doe al that lieth in me,  
to ease your care whose case doth touch me neere, 915  
To finde you out by lande and eke by Sea,  
my selfe did toyle twixt hope and trembling feare,  
Whose shaking off in sort as now we see,  
is sowre to you, and nothing sweet to mee.

But sith you may with licence of my Lord, 920  
returne againe from whence you were exilede,  
Why wil you not with him therein accord?  
me thinks refusing that, you are beguilde.  
There whom you loue, you may haue still in sight,  
which step in loue was neuer holden light. 925

*Contar.* Can I beholde another to embrace,  
where I my selfe my Loue haue alwayes cast,  
Would not my grieve bewray it selfe in place,  
to see my Loue so cleerely from me past.  
Good *Niphe* helpe, this is my last request, 930  
to shew my grieve good *Niphe* doe thy best.

*Niphes song.*

O silly Bird what fees thy heauy brest,  
 which seeking foode to feed thy young withall,  
 At thy returne doest find thy empty nest,  
 and none therein to answere at thy call? 935  
 How can thy heart but melt away for grieve,  
 forgoing them to thee of late so lief?

How could'st thou *Thisby* stay, by trembling hand,  
 from reauing thee thy then so lothsome life,  
 When dead on ground thy *Pyrramus* gan stand, 940  
 who hop'd forthwith to haue thee to his wife?  
 The neerer hope the fuller fraught with gall,  
 when trust in hope to rest hath sodaine fall.

Poore *Contareus* how hath Fortune fickle dame,  
 procur'd thy grieve in offering thee her hand? 945  
 Which in thy cause doth now deserue most blame,  
 when she would seem thy special friend to stand,  
 O ye that trust the whirling of her wheele,  
 beware the wench at turning of her beele.

And you that look aloft beyond degree, 950  
 when fayrest wind doth fill your flying sayle,  
 Hold fast for feare your footing ficklest bee,  
 when hope wil seeme to helpe you to preuayle.  
 So did she here with *Contareus* play,  
 from whom she fled when she made shew of stay. 955

*Contu.* I thank thee *Niphe* for thy mournful song,  
 the tune whereof delights the doleful eares  
 Of such as iustly may complaine the wrong,  
 whose grieve dammes vp the floud of trickling teares.  
 Farewell to both, sith I must needs depart, 960  
 beare witnes of my woe and careful heart.

And tel my Lady deere that I intend,  
 henceforth to seeke if I may meet her friend,  
*Loricus* whom the Hermit did commend,  
 Ile bid him thinke and hope one day to find 965  
 Reward for that his faithful seruice long,  
 til when we both may plaine of fortunes wrong.

Yet say, I wil abide hers to command,  
 where so aduentures hard shal carry me,  
 Not leauing Loue by Sea nor yet by land, 970

though that I loue, I neuer hap to see.  
 Oh careful heart opprest with such desires,  
 as lacks the ioyes that lyking aye requires.

Yet this I am assur'de her Princely heart,  
 where she hath lou'd wil neuer quite forget, 975  
 I know in her I shal haue stil a part,  
 in honest sort I know she loues me yet.  
 These thoughts in me mainteine the hope of life,  
 which other waies by death should end the strife.

*Exit Contar.*

*Rox.* Wel then I see our fortune must deuide, 980  
 we must again to Countries land retire,  
 This knight delights in sorrowing to abide,  
 For missing her which was his whole desire.  
 My selfe haue felt such trauel on their traine,  
 as I am glad home to returne agayne. 985

The Gods send al good speed that tarry here,  
 and chiefly her which gouernes al the rest,  
 As for my selfe I wil spread farre and neere,  
 for princely prayse that she deserueth best :  
 And that God loued vs which made vs stay, 990  
 where vertuous Queene doth stately scepter sway.

*Finis.*

Imprinted at Lon-  
 don for Thomas Cudman.  
 1585.

## II.—AUTHORSHIP AND INTERPRETATION

On the question of authorship, Mr. Pollard's opinion that the comedy was "probably by George Gascoigne" has the first claim to consideration. Mr. Pollard gives reasons (which appear to me to be sound) for concluding that Gascoigne was not the author of the whole pamphlet.<sup>1</sup> In the dedicatory epistle prefixed to the four versions of *The Tale*

<sup>1</sup> See especially the passage before the "posies" (p. 99), in which the author says he does not understand Italian.

of *Hemetes* which Gascoigne presented to the Queen on January 1, 1576, he speaks as if he were present at Woodstock on the occasion of the entertainment, but were not himself the author of *The Tale*, whose "skyll" and "well polished style" he contrasts with his own "rude phrases."<sup>1</sup>

There seems to be no reason why Gascoigne should disavow or conceal the authorship of any part of the pamphlet, if it were really his; it would be contrary to his practice, for the only known work of his that was not acknowledged by him was *The Spoyle of Antwerpe*, and in this case there were special reasons, the pamphlet being his report of service done as a state emissary, whose official position it might not be convenient to reveal. He claimed credit for his share of *The Princelye pleasures, at the Courte at Kenelwoorth*, published within a year of the time of performance (July, 1575), and put his well-known motto, *Tam Marti quam Mercurio*, at the end of the pamphlet, which was included in the collected edition of his works, issued, after his death, in 1587. Beyond the fact that he was at Woodstock at the time, there is nothing to show that Gascoigne was responsible for any part of the entertainment, and the original ascription of the comedy to him was probably based upon the mistaken notion that he was the author of *The Tale of Hemetes*, upon which it is founded.

The internal evidence in support of Gascoigne's authorship of the comedy is as weak as the external. I should be the last to contend that Gascoigne is a great writer, but my impression, after a careful reading of the whole of his known work, is that he does not descend below a certain level of mediocrity, and the Woodstock comedy strikes me as inferior, in both conception and execution, to any of his

<sup>1</sup> Gascoigne's Complete Works (Cambridge English Classics), Vol. II, p. 477.

acknowledged works; it is certainly much below the standard of the Kenilworth "shew" of Zabeta, written by Gascoigne two or three months before. The plot is bald and shows no ingenuity of invention, the compliment to the Queen is slight, and Gascoigne was enough of a courtier to lay flattery on with a trowel. The Pages' "pretty act of sport" was so irrelevant that the reporter omitted it, and the insertion and the omission are alike contrary to Gascoigne's manner. The metre of the comedy (iambic pentameter, A B A B C C) is singularly ill-fitted for dramatic presentation, and is not employed by Gascoigne on any similar occasion. It is here used with a lack of skill much below Gascoigne's level of workmanship, which, for his time, was at least respectable. Without apparent reason, the writer departs from his rhyme-scheme to fall into couplets (151-2, 171-2, 174-5, 264-5, 436-7); he has an occasional stranded prose line (173 and 421*a*); some lines lack a foot (530, 566), others a syllable (292, 309); a redundant foot is not uncommon (227, 320, 486, 825, 900-907); 246 and 292 will not scan. There are many imperfect rhymes, and the use of alliteration is pushed to an excess beyond Gascoigne's practice. In the last word of 418 we have a glaring case of strained accent, which Gascoigne in his treatise on versification specially condemns; and some of the grammatical forms (*e. g.* *-eth* as the plural termination of the verb) are not his.

Before looking elsewhere for the author, it may be well to consider the purpose and character of the Woodstock entertainment, especially of the comedy which is its most salient feature. The author of the pamphlet goes out of his way to draw attention to the "audacity" of the hermit's tale, "in which tale if you marke the woords with this present world, or were acquainted with the state of the deuises, you shoulde finde no lesse hidden then uttered, and no lesse uttered then shoulde deserue a double reading ouer, euen of

those (with whom I finde you a companion) that haue disposed their houres to the study of great matters." The Princess Caudina, who is the heroine alike of the story and of the comedy, does not in either, it should be noted, obtain the lover for whom she has "passed perils past belief"; in the tale, the issue is left doubtful, perhaps with the assumption that the lovers, having met after so many vicissitudes, will be happy ever after; but in the comedy, after a reasonable amount of protestation, they resign their rights for the good of their country, though the lower rank of Contarenus is all that is urged against him. The comedy is thus the counterpart of the "shew" of Zabeta, written by Gascoigne for the Kenilworth festivities, which urged on the Queen the advantages of matrimony, obviously in the interests of Leicester, who appears to have been pressing his suit at this time with some insistence;<sup>1</sup> the "shew" was never presented to Elizabeth, though it was "prepared and redy (every Actor in his garment) two or three days together," doubtless because the Queen had some inkling of its purport, and preferred not to receive, in public, so outspoken a declaration of her favourite's designs. The Woodstock comedy preaches exactly the opposite doctrine—the subjection of personal desires to interests of state; and the fate of Loricus and Hemetes in the story seems to point the lesson which Queen Elizabeth was undoubtedly anxious that her lovers should learn—that of whole hearted devotion without hope of recompense. It appears rash to assume that Leicester, in the two months intervening between the Kenilworth and the Woodstock entertainments, had made such a remarkable change of front; it is more probable that the Woodstock devices were directed not by or for Leicester, but against him, and this supposition is borne out by the interest

<sup>1</sup> *Modern Language Review*, Vol. iv, pp. 231–2.

taken in the proceedings by the French Ambassador, who was known to be hostile to Leicester's designs. This supposition would presumably exclude not only Gascoigne, but the whole corps of court poets employed by Leicester at Kenilworth—William Hunneys, Master of her Majesty's Chapel; George Ferrers, sometime Lord of Misrule in the Court; Henry Goldingham and Richard Muncaster.

Slight as are the literary merits of the entertainment, its allusions evidently provoked a great deal of interest at the time. The Queen gave "earnest command that the whole in order as it fell, should be brought her in writing, which being done, as I heare, she used, besides her own skill, the helpe of the deuisors, & how thinges were made I know not, but sure I am her Majesty hath often in speech some part hereof with mirth at the remembrance . . . it was as well thought of, as anye thing euer done before her Majestie, not onely of her, but of the rest: in such sort, that her Graces passions, and other the Ladies could not but shew it selfe in open place more then euer hath been seene." It was because Gascoigne saw the Queen's "lernered judgment greatly pleased" with the *Tale of Hemetes* that he chose it to illustrate his skill as a translator. The Gascoigne versions must have been circulated in other mss. beside that presented to the Queen, for the Latin text, as well as the English, was annexed by Abraham Fleming to his curious pamphlet *A Paradox, proving by reason and example that Baldnesse is much better than bushie hair*, etc. (1579). The publication of the entertainment by Cadman in 1585 (ten years after the event), gives evidence of a certain amount of permanent interest. Still, it is rather surprising to find that as late as 1592 the devices and characters of the entertainment could be alluded to as if they were still kept in mind by the Queen and Court. The reference is so significant that it seems worth while to reproduce it here as it was printed in 1821

by William Hamper of Birmingham from a ms. then in his possession, and reprinted by Nichols in the subsequent edition of the *Progresses* :—

The second daies worke where the Chaplayne maketh this Relation.

Da mihi quicquid habes, animumqu' fidemq' manumq'

Hec tria si mihi des, das mihi quicquid habes.

Elizæ laudes, et vox et lingua loquntur.

#### The Oration.

Most excellent Princes! Princes of excellencie! whom God framed in heauen to grace his woorkmanshipe on earth, and whose gratiouse abiding with us belowe is priuiledged by the singular grace of God aboue! Vouchsafe, I beseeche you, from the matcheles heighte of your Royall graces, to loke downe on the humble dwelling of an owlde Knight, now a newe religiouse Hermite: who, as heretofore he professed the obedience of his youthe, by constant seruice of the worldes best Creature, so at this present presentethe the deuotion of his yeares, by continuall seruing of the worldes onlie Cretor. In theone, kind judgment was the usher, & beleefe the follower of his sounde loue: in the other, meditation is the forerunner, & zeale the usher, of this streite lyfe. This solitary man, Loricus, for such is his condicion & so is he called, one whose harde adventures were once discovered, and better fortune foreshewed, by a good father of his owne coate, not farr from this Coppies, rann the restles race of desire, to seeke content in the state of perfections; comaunding his thoughtes & deedes to tender theire dutie & make solemne sacrifices to the Idoll of his harte, in as manie partes as his minde had passions, yet all to one ende, because all from one grounde, to wit the consent of his affections. Sometymes he consorted with couragious Gentelmen, manifesting inward joyes by open justes, the yearlie tribute of his dearest Loue. Sometimes he summoned the wittenesse of depest conceytes, Himmes & Songes & Emblemes, dedicating them to the honor of his heauenlye Mistres. Sometymes by lyking drawen to looking, he lost himselfe in the bottomles vewe of unparragonized vertues, eche good ymagination ouertaking other with a better, and the best yielding a degree aboue the best, when they all were deemed too weake for her worth which ouerweyeth all worthinesse.

Thus spent he the florishe of his gladdest dayes, crauing no rewarde ells, but that he might loue, nor no reputation beside but that he might be knowne to Loue; till the two enimies of Prosperitie, Enuie and Age, (the one greuing at him, & the other growing on him,) cutt him off from the following the Cowrte, not from goying forward in his course. Thence, willingly unwilling, he retired his tyred lymes into a corner of quiet

repose, in this Countrie, where he lyued priuate in coelestiall contemplation of manie matters together, and, as he once told me, seriouslie kept a verie courte in his owne bosome, making presence of her in his soule, who was absent from his sight. Amongst manie other exercises (whereof feruent desire ys not scant) he founde it noe small furtheraunce of diuine speculation to walke thorow by-pathes & uncoth passages, under the coole shadowes of greene trees.

And one daie aboute the rest, as he ranged abroad, hauing forgotten himself in a long sweet rauishment, his feete wandring astray, when his mind went right, he hit by chaunce on a homelie Cell of mine which had helde a little space, to my greate solace, & taking mee on a suddaine at my ordinarie Orisons;—By your leaue, verteouse Sir, quoth he, where lyes the highe-waie I pray you. Marry here, gentell Knight (sayde I) looking on my booke with mine eyes, & poynting up to heauen with my finger; it is the very Kinge's hie-waye. You saye true in deede (quoth he) the verie Queene's hie-waye, which my harte inquired after though my tongue asked for another. And so, as it is the use with fellowe humors when they fortunately mete, we light bothe upon one argument, the universall fame of that miraculouse gouernment, which by truthe & peace, the harbengers of heauen, directeth us the verie way to eternall blessedness. Much good discourse had we more, of the vanitie of the world, the uncertaintie of frendes, the unconstancie of fortune; but the upshoot of all was this, that he would become an Heremite, I should be his Chaplaine, & both joyntlie joyne in prayers for one Prince, & the prayes of one God. To which purpose, because this plott pleased him, hee here forthwith erected a poore Loddging or twoe, for me, himselfe, & a page, that wayteth on him, naming it when he had donne the Crowne Oratory; and therefore aduaunsed his deuise on the entrance after the Romaine fashion in a Pillar of perpetuall remembraunce. But, alas! whilst he seekes to raise one buylding, he sees the rewins of another; & whilst he shapes a monument for his minde, he feelles the miserie of his bodie, whose roofe was roughe with the mosse of greene haire, whose sides were crased with the tempestes of sicknes, whose foundations shooke under him with the waight of an unwildye carcassee: and when he perceaued his olde house in a manner past reparacions, considering his owne unablenes, he recomended the care thereof to the conningest Architect of Worlde, who onlie was able to pull it downe unto the earth, & raise it anewe, in better glorie than it stode before. Then began I to call him to his former preceptes, & his latter practizes, shewing him in fewe wordes (for he conceaued much) that now was the time of tryall. A good sayler was better seene in a storme than in a calme. It was no straunge thing to lyue; for slaues lyue, and beastes lyue too. Nature had provided him comforte, who made that most common which shee had made most greuous; to the ende the equallnes might aleye the egernes of death.

To which he mildelie replied that my motions fytlie touched him, he was as desirouse to encounter with Death, as to heare of Death, for Fortitude still abode his bed-fellowe. Extremitie thoug[h] it could not be ouercom yet it might be ouerborne, since his minde had secured him by fearing nothing, and oueriched him by desiring nothing. Hee had longe lyued in the Sea, and ment now to die in the Hauen. Hauen (saide I). Yea! the Hauen (quoth he); lett me be carried into the Hauen. Which Hauen I supposed he hadd spoken idellie, but that he eftsones repeted it, and wished to be brought to this poore houell before the gates. What thatt odde corner (saide I). Yes (quoth he) that corner; and angerlie broke of with this sentence: *Subsilire in cœlum ex Angulo licet.*

So we speedilie remoued him hither, wher being softely layed he uttered these Speeches softelie:—Before I was olde, I desyred to lyue well, and now I am olde, I desire to die well: and to die well is to die willinglie. Manie there be that wish to lyue, yet wott not how to die: lett me be theire example yf they lyke not lyfe, to lyue, to die with lyking, who neither embraced Fortune when shee flew unto mee, nor ensued Fortune when she fled from mee, nor spared niggardlie, nor spent lavishlie, whatsoeuer she bestowed on me: but since it was my singuler hope to lyue beholding to the Crowne, I accompt it my speciall joye to dye beholding the Crowne. Holy Crowne! hallowed by the sacrament, confirmed by the fates; thou hast been the Auctor of my last Testament. So calling for pen and inke (which were neuer far off) he drew a formall draught of his whole will, signed & subscribed by himselfe, but witnessed by us, the compassionate spectators of that lamentable action which he had no sooner entituled by wayes of trust, & geuen me charge for the safe deliuering thereof, but he fell soddenlye speecheles, & so continueth to this houre. The stile runnethe thus: *To the most renowned Queene owner of the best Crowne & crowned with the best desertes, the lyuing loue of dying Loricus.* Now, most peereles Princes, sence there is none can laie challenge to this title, except they should also challenge your vertues, which were to complaine of Nature for robbing herselfe to do you right, accept I beseeche you the offer of him who dares not offer it to anie other; & one daie no doubt but the Knight himselfe, if happilie he recouer (as what may not so sacred a Prince promise), will say it is in a good hand, & proue the best expounder of his owne meaning. In the meane season, though myne endeavors must be employed about your sick seruant, yet my prayers shall not cease for your most gratiouse Majestie, that as you haue ouer liued the vaine hope of your forraine enemies, so you may outlast the kinde wishes of your loyall subjectes, which is to last to the last euerlasting. Amen.

Finis.

To the most renowned Queene,  
 Owner of the best Crowne, & crowned with the best desertes, the lyuing  
 Loue of dying Loricus.

I Loricus, Bodie sicke,  
 Sences sounde, Remembraunce quicke,  
 Neuer crauing, euer seruing,  
 Little hauing, lesse deseruing,

Though a hartie true wellwiller  
 Of the Crowne & crowned Piller,  
 To that Crowne, my lyues content,  
 Make my Will & Testament.

Soule ! goe first to heauenlie rest ;  
 Soule the Bodies heauenlie gieste,  
 Where, both Host & Inn decaying,  
 Yeld the gieste no quiet staying.

Bodie ! back againe, departe ;  
 Earth thou wast, & Earth thou arte.  
 Mortall creatures still be jurneing,  
 From the earth to earth returning.

As for anie worldlie lyuing  
 Nothing haue I woorth the geeuing :  
 Let the baser indeed take them,  
 We which follow God forsake them.

But if anie wishe to dwell,  
 As I did, in homely Cell,  
 Let him pull his Castells downe,  
 And as I did serue the Crowne,  
 Serue the Crowne, O Crowne deseruing,  
 Better tha[n] Loricus seruing.

In witness whereof I haue set to my hande & harte.

LORICUS, Columnæ coronatæ Custos fidelissimus.

In presence of us whose names are underwritten,

STELLATUS, Rectoriæ Coronatæ Capellanus.

RENATUS, Equitis Coronati Servus obseruantissimus.

The Page bringeth tydings of his Maister's Recouerie, & presenteth  
 his Legacie.

The suddaine recouerie of my distressed Maister, whome latelie you left  
 in a Traunce (Most excellent Princes !) hath made me at one tyme the

hastie messenger of three trothes, your miracle, his mending, & my mirthe. Miracles on the sicke are seldom seene without theire mending : & mending of the good ys not often seene without other mens mirth. Where your Majestie hath don a miracle, & it can not be denied, I hope I may manifest, & it shall not be disliked : for miracles are no miracles unlesse they be confessed, & mirth is no mirth yf it be concealed.

May it therefor please you to heare of his life who lyues by you, & woulde not liue but to please you ; in whom the sole vertue of your sacred presence, which hath made the weather fayre, & the ground fruitfull at this progresse, wrought so strange an effect and so speedie an alteration, that, whereas before he seemed altogether speechles, now Motion (the Recorder of the Bodies Commonwealth) tells a lyuelie tale of health, and his Tongue (the Cocheman of the Harte) begun to speake the sweete language of affection. So tounring him selfe about to the ayre & the lyght, O wretched man (quoth he) callamities storie, lyfes delay, & deathes prisoner : with that he pawsed a while & then fixing his eyes on the Crowne, he sayd Welcom be that blessed Companie, but thrise blessed be her coming aboue the rest, who came to geue me this blessed rest !

Hereat Stellatus, his Chappelaine, besought him to blesse God onelie, for it was Gods spirite who recouered his spirites. Truthe (quoth he again) yet whosoever blesseth her, blesseth God in her : and euer blessed be God for her.—The conference continued long, but louinglie, betwixt them ; till at length upon question to whom the Will was directed, with knowledge how it was deliuered, Loricus publiklie acknowledged the right performance of his true meaning unto your Royall Majestie, to whom he humblie recommended the full execution thereof, & by me hath sent your Majestye this simple Legacie, which he disposed the rather whilst he yet lyueth, than lefte to be disposed after his death, that you might understande how he alwaies preferred the deed. Thus much your diuine power hath performed to him, thusfar his thankfulnes hath brought mee to your Majestie. As for anie other Accomplementes, whatsoeuer Dutie yeldes to be debt, Deuotion offers to be dischardged ; and if my Maister's best payment be onlie good prayers, what need more than the Pages bare woorde, which is allwaies.—Amen.

#### The Legacye.

Item. I bequethe (to your Highnes) THE WHOLE MANNOR OF LOUE, and the appurtenaunces thereunto belonging :

(Viz.) Woodes of hie attemptes,  
 Groues of humble seruice,  
 Meddowes of greene thoughtes,  
 Pastures of feeding fancies,  
 Arrable Lande of large promisses,

Riuers of ebbing & flowing fauors,  
 Gardens hedged about with priuate, for succorie, & bordered with  
 tyme : of greene nothing but hartesease, drawn in the perfect  
 forme of a true louers knott.

Orchards stored with the best fruit : Queene Apples, Pome Royalls,  
 & Soueraigne Peare.

Fishing for dayntie Kisses with smyling countenances,  
 Hawking to springe pleasure with the spanniells of kindenes.  
 Hunting that deare game which repentance followeth.

Ouer & beside the Royaltie : for

Weftes of fearefull dispaire,  
 Strayes of wandring conceiptes,  
 Fellons goods of stolne delighes,  
 Coppie Holders which allure by witte writings,  
 Or Tennantes at will who stand upon good behaiour.  
 The Demaines being deepe sighes,  
 And the Lordes House a pittifull harte.  
 And this Mannor is helde in Knightes seruice,  
 As may be gathered from the true Receauour of fayre Ladies, and  
 seene in the auncient deedes of amorous Gentlemen.

All which he craueth may be annexed to his former Will, & there-  
 with approued in the Prerogatiue Courte of Your Majesties  
 acceptance.

In witnes whereof I haue putt to my hande & Seale ;

LORICUS, Columnæ coronatæ Custos fidelissimus.

In the presence of us whose names are here under written :

STELLATUS, Rectoriæ coronatæ Capellanus.

RENATUS, Equitis coronati Servus obseruantissimus.

FINIS.

Hamper divided the ms. which he described as "a coeval copy, in a volume of manuscript collections, by Henry Ferrers, Esq. of Baddesley Clinton" into three parts, the extract printed above being headed "Part III." Part I contains "Sir Henry Lee's challenge before the Shampanie," and "The Supplication of the owld Knight." Part II

consists of "The Message of the Damsell of the Queene of Fayries," "The olde Knightes Tale," "The Song after Dinner at the two Ladies entrance," "The Ladies Thankesgeuing for their deliuerie from Unconstancie," and "The last Song." "The Ladies Thankesgeuing" was printed, with slight variations, in the Phoenix Nest, 1593, under the title, "An Excellent Dialogue between Constancie and Inconstancie, as it was by speech presented to hir Majestie, in the last Progresse, at Sir Henrie Leighe's House." Sir Henry Lee's house at Quarendon was honoured by a visit from the Queen during the progress of 1592, in the month of August,<sup>1</sup> and we are thus able to fix the date and scene of the entertainment, which, by way of corroboration, mentions Sir Henry Lee's name in the text. Part III, which particularly concerns us, was evidently the second day's programme of the entertainment, "The Ladies Thankesgeuing" and "The last Song" forming part of the first. Sir Henry Lee had been from the beginning of Elizabeth's reign the royal champion, and had in 1590 resigned his office at an elaborate ceremony, in which a "crowned pillar," bearing a complimentary tablet to Elizabeth, was the centre of the proceedings.<sup>2</sup> It is this crowned pillar of 1590 which is so copiously referred to in the entertainment of 1592, as quoted above. This may somewhat lessen our surprise at allusions to the entertainment at Woodstock in 1575, for Sir Henry was not only Queen's Champion, but Lieutenant of the Royal Manor of Woodstock, having been appointed to that office about 1570. In this capacity he would be likely to have charge of the Woodstock entertainment, and the reference to it in 1592 is, in part, at least, accounted for. In any case, that there was such a reference

<sup>1</sup> Nichols, Vol. III, p. 125.

<sup>2</sup> See Nichols, Vol. III, p. 48.

is beyond doubt. The name Loricus is not a common one; and the Loricus here referred to is "one whose harde adventures were once discovered, and better fortune fore-shewed, by a good father of his owne coate, not farr from this Coppies." Loricus, we are informed, has turned hermit, and the passage just quoted makes it clear that the "good father of his owne coate" was the hermit of *The Tale of Hemetes*. Moreover, the sentences immediately following, with the references to "open justes, the yearlie tribute of his dearest Loue," and "Himmes & Songes & Emblemes" point to the identification of Loricus with Sir Henry Lee, who as royal champion held an annual tournament "to eternize the glory of her Majestie's Court," and brought the series to a close in 1590 by "justs at the tilt-yard" of unusual magnificence, in which "Himmes & Songes & Emblemes" were prominent features. The allusions to the later years of Sir Henry's life are clear enough; and on the strength of the evidence the Quarendon entertainment offers, we are perhaps justified in concluding that at Woodstock in 1575 Loricus was understood to represent Sir Henry Lee. The description of the travels and feats of arms undertaken by Loricus in his desire "to deserue that reputation as this great and noble mistris woulde but thinke him worthy to be hers, though she would neuer bee none of his," corresponds to the account given of Sir Henry Lee's knightly exploits by the writer of his epitaph.<sup>1</sup> The

<sup>1</sup> "He gave himselfe to Voyage and Travaile into the flourishing States of France, Italy, and Germany, wher soon putting on all those abilities that became the backe of honour, especially skill and proof in armes, he lived in grace and gracing the Courtes of the most renowned Princes of that warlike age, returned home charged with the reputation of a well-formed travellour, and adorned with those flowers of knighthood, courtesy, bounty, valour, which quickly gave forth their fruite as well in the fieldes to the advantage (at once) of the two divided parties of this happily united State, and to both those Princes his Sovereignes successively in that

momentary defection of Loricus from his devotion to his mistress is perhaps merely a way of apologizing for his previous service to Queen Mary, though there were so many courtiers in the same predicament that no apology might seem necessary; Sir Henry began his courtiership under Henry VIII, and ended it under James I, so that he saw many changes of royal fortune. In any case, these complimentary or self-depreciatory allegories should not be pressed too hard: there was no question of personal devotion to Elizabeth in the sense of modern romantic passion, for Sir Henry Lee was not only married, but in his later years "lived for love" with Ann Vavasour, one of the Queen's maids of honour, to the scandal of even those easygoing times. In ordinary life, moreover, he was no knight errant, but an enterprising sheep grazier and encloser of commons.

There are further references to the Woodstock entertainment in *The olde Knightes Tale*, also recited, apparently, by Sir Henry Lee. The stanzas printed by Nichols, Vol. III, pp. 199-200, should be compared with the account of the Woodstock bower, the pictures with posies,<sup>1</sup> and the Queen of the Fayry. But these allusions, though they make it

expedition into Scotland in the year 1573; when in goodly equipage he repayred to the seige of Edinburgh, ther quartering before the Castle, and commanding one of the batteries, he shared largely in the honor of ravishing that maiden forte; as also in Courte, wher he shone in all those fayer partes became his profession and vovew, honouring his highly gracious Mris with reysing those later Olimpiads of her Courte Justs and Tournaments (thereby trying and treyninge the Courtier in those exercises of armes that keepe the person bright and steeled to hardinesse, that by softte ease rusts and weares) wherein still himself lead and triumphed, carying away great spoyles of grace from the Sovereaigne, and renowne from the worlde, for the fairest man at armes and most complete Courtier of his times, till singled out by the choice hand of his Royall Mris," &c.

<sup>1</sup> Especially the first two stanzas on p. 200 with the sentence given in the text of the entertainment, beginning "A number of fine Pictures." (p. 98.)

evident that something mysterious was intended by these devices, do not enlighten us as to what the mystery meant.

Nor are we helped much, it must be acknowledged, as to the difficult question of the authorship. Hamper, who had the MS. in his possession, described it as "preserved in a volume of collections by Henry Ferrers, Esq., of Baddesley Clinton," and as Henry Ferrers was a writer of some note, it has been suggested by Mr. Sidney Lee<sup>1</sup> that Henry Ferrers was the author. If this were supported by firmer evidence, one would be tempted to suppose that the explanation of the references to the Woodstock entertainment of 1575 in the Quarendon entertainment of 1592 were explained by identity of authorship; but to add conjecture to conjecture is a frivolous diversion, and it seems better to say frankly that the Woodstock and Quarendon entertainments are alike of unknown authorship. There are peculiarities about them which would be accounted for by the supposition that Henry Ferrers was the author of both, but these peculiarities might be accounted for in a score of other ways.

J. W. CUNLIFFE.

<sup>1</sup> D. N. B., Ferrers, Henry.